

HA-1475

Between 1883 & 1888

Bradford-Hanna-Doxen House &  
Carriage House  
516 Rock Spring  
Bel Air  
private

This L-shaped Victorian house has applied stick decoration and fishscale shingles in the front gable. It also has an intriguing two story front bay window bisected by the front porch. The turned work decorating the front porch is very good. Behind the house is an L-shaped carriage house. The one and half story section is the older; one can see raw clapboard inside the two and a half story section where it has been butted up against the other. The first floor of the house has offices; the second and attic stories have apartments. The carriage house has recently been renovated into offices.

The house was an early one in Dallam's Addition. It was built between 1883 and 1888 by Samuel Bradford, probably the son of Augustus Bradford, Maryland's troubled Civil War governor.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA-1475 (house)  
1314754611  
HA-1475 (carriage)  
1314754606 house)

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Bradford-Hanna-Doxen House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

516 Rock Spring

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

\_\_\_DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_SITE

\_\_\_OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

\_\_\_PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

\_\_\_BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES RESTRICTED

\_\_\_YES UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_NO

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

James P. Vadas

Telephone #: 557-7774

STREET & NUMBER

2502 Hunt Place

CITY, TOWN

Fallston

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21047

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 1041

Folio #: 572

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_FEDERAL \_\_\_STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This two and a half story shiplap sided house is at 516 Rock Spring in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. The house has a steeply pitched slate gable roof and is T-shaped, with the crossbar of the T along the north side. The front is therefore L-shaped and two bays wide. The north bay projects one bay to the east. Its front elevation has Eastlake applied decoration in the peak of the gable above the flat 2/2 window. Surrounding the window on the other three sides are fish-scale shingles. A two story hexagonal bay window occupies the rest of the front of the ell, bisected by the front porch. The entrance is in the east elevation of the leg of the T, a three pane transom and long single pane sidelights around a glass door. The L-shaped front porch has a hipped-roof carried on groups of stock turned posts with carved brackets. A row of spindles decorates the area just under the roof.

The north elevation of the house has a gable-roofed and slate-sided dormer in the middle of the roof. Directly below that is a two story shed-roofed rectangular bay window with ordinary 2/2 windows in the east face and horizontal rectangular windows in each story in the north face.

The rear of the building has a single story wrap around addition and a metal fire escape to the attic level. All the windows are 2/2 except those in the back addition which are 1/1. Two corbel-capped chimneys break the roof line, one in front at the place where the leg of the T meets the crossbar and one west of that in the middle of the west arm of the crossbar.

The ground floor was sadly cut up when it was turned into offices and the original floor plan has been obscured. The original woodwork is molded. A closed-string dog-leg staircase with turned balusters and a square paneled newel rises along the south wall of the hall which is in the leg of the T.

The L-shaped carriage house on the west portions of the lot has two portions. The eastern one and a half story section has rough clapboard siding and a steeply pitched slate gable roof. It was the first portion built because you can see the clapboards inside the other part where the rear two and a half story section was butted up against the east section. There are two rooms in the east section. The west section is shiplap sided with a slate gable roof. The ground floor is one large room used for a furnace and storage with a little office in the east end. Access is by double-sliding doors in the south elevation (the carriage doors) and an ordinary door in the east elevation near the join with the other section.

The second floor and attic have recently been remodeled into offices. Access is by a wooden staircase at aright angles to the south elevation in the west bay of second story. One room and bath is in the west block and another large room is in the attic level of the east block. Another room is in the attic level of the west block. The windows in the carriage house are 6/6.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# **8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES    Between 1883 & 1888                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house, while it has fairly common Queen Anne detailing, has put the elements together in a different way. The house is T-shaped like many others, but the crossbar of the T is along the north side. Many other houses have a two story hexagonal bay window, and some have it on the front, although the dining room side is more common, but none has it bisected by the front porch. Also on the lot is an L-shaped carriage house with offices in the east one story section and on the second story of the west section.

The house was probably built by Samuel Bradford, possibly the son of Maryland's Civil War governor, Augustus W. Bradford. Governor Bradford's father's name was Samuel. Bradford leased lots #13, 14, 15 & 16 in Dallam's Addition in 1883 and bought it in 1888 (60/507). It seems reasonable to assume that he built the house in that five year period. That was a common pattern in both of Dallam's Additions. There is nothing in the architecture of the house to contradict the theory.

Bradford and baker A. T. Geatty sold the property to John B. Hanna in 1905 (115/130). John B. Hanna's wife, Martha, ran a well-known boarding house on Main Street across the street from the Methodist Episcopal Church into the 20th century. Perhaps this house was a retirement home or an investment, since they sold it to Hanna E. McComas the next year (117/361). Hanna McComas sold it to Emory McComas in 1914 (145/226). McComas was a partner in McComas Brothers Lumber & Building Supplies. He also owned a house across the street (545 Rock Spring) bought in 1913. His widow only sold that house in 1965, but whether they lived there or here in 1914 is not known. He sold this house to his brother and partner, M. Stanley McComas, in December 1916 (155/33). Stanley McComas had sold his house at 625 Roland in November 1916 and needed a place, perhaps, while he was building his new house next door at 522 Rock Spring. The 155/33 deed includes both lots. Stanley sold this one to Jacob A. Doxen in July 1917 (158/13). He was living at 522 at his death in 1937.

Jacob Doxen lost this house in 1926 as a result of a defaulted mortgage. It was sold in January to Howard S. O'Neill (195/348) who held it until August when he sold it to the Farmers & Merchants Bank (201/36). They sold it a year later to Harvey Ewing (1927, 306/41). In 1928 J. Herbert Hanna, a Bel Air automobile dealer, bought it from Ewing in 1928 (211/27) and held it until 1955 when he sold it to Wallis D. Rogers (434/61). Rogers sold it in 1968 to Larry Rawl (778/349). Rawl sold it in 1971 to J. Frank Norman (881/411) and his widow Caroline sold it the following year to Harford Haven, Inc. (904/852). George Hartman bought it from the corporation in 1976 (1008/123) and sold it the following year to the present owner, James P. Vadas (1041/572).

There are offices on the first floor and two apartments upstairs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

57475

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #165 in the Town of Bel Air.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian

12 December 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

TITLE: 516 Rock Spring

1041/572	15 September 1977 George A. Hartman, Jr. & Barbara to James P. Vadas & Germaine \$69,900
1008/123	31 August 1976 Harford Haven, Inc. to George A. Hartman & Barbara
904/852	21 August 1972 Caroline V. Norman, widow to Harford Haven, Inc.
881/411	30 August 1971 Larry J. Rawl & Frances to J. Frank Norman & Caroline
778/349	29 May 1968 Wallis D. Rogers & Drusilla to Larry J. Rawl & Frances
434/61	27 April 1955 J. Herbert Hanna & Edith to Wallis D. Rogers & Drusilla
211/27	27 Seotember 1928 Harvey Ewing & May to J. Herbert Hanna & Edith
206/41	20 August 1927 Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Bel Air

to  
Harvet Ewing

201/36	9 August 1926 Howard S. O'Neill & Madeline to Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Bel Air
195/348	7 January 1926 John L. G. Lee, assignee of mortgage of Jacob A. Doxen to Howard S. O'Neill former residence of Jacob Doxen
173/178	5 May 1921 V. Page Evans to Jacob A. Doxen & wife
173/177	5 May 1921 Jacob Doxen & Elizabeth to V. Page Evans
158/13	3 July 1917 M. Stanley McComas & Sarah to Jacob A. Doxen
155/33	18 December 1916 Emory A. McComas to M. Stanley McComas
145/226	2 June 1914 Hanna E. McComas to Emory A. McComas

117/361

10 May 1906  
John B. Hanna & Martha  
to  
Hanna E. McComas

115/130

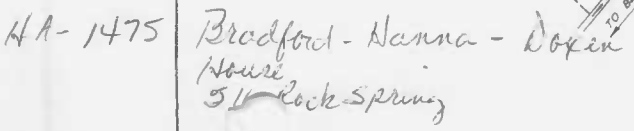
20 March 1905  
Albert T. Geatty & Mary &  
Samuel W. Bradford & Cornelia  
to  
John B. Hanna

60/507

22 September 1888  
Mary C. Dallam  
to  
Samuel W. Bradford



0 500 1000 2000  
GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET





HA-1475

Bradford-Hanna-Doyen House, 516 Rock Spring  
Bel Air

e + n elev

M. Lamm, 1979



44-1475

Bradford-Hanna - Devon House, 516 Rock Spring  
Bldg

w + s also

M. Larrut, 1979









H4-1475A

Bradford Hanna - Owen House, 316 Rock Spring  
Bel air

s + e elev of Carriage house

M. Lorent, 1979